

## SYMPHONY CONCERTS

Mr. De Koven Discusses the  
Orchestra Reorganization.

## REASON FOR CHANGE

PROF. SANTELMANN EXPRESSES  
HEARTY SYMPATHY.

It Has Been Demonstrated That There  
is Ample Musical Talent in  
Washington.

Symphony orchestra concerts are to be a feature in Washington during the coming season. A series of five concerts are assured, and if the present plans of Mr. Reginald De Koven materialize the public will be given an opportunity to listen to several Sunday afternoon concerts of the best music at popular prices.

The outcome of the labor difficulties which involved the Marine Band and the civilian musicians composing the Washington Symphony Orchestra—the withdrawal of the Marine Band—has resulted in the reorganization of the orchestra under the name of the De Koven Symphony Orchestra, the personnel of the organization being made up entirely of civilian musicians.

Now that the new organization has been perfected a discussion of the situation by Mr. De Koven is made possible, and when asked regarding what Washington might expect from him this winter he responded enthusiastically.

"My position in the matter has been first, last and all the time that Washington should have a symphony orchestra," he began. "However, when I came to Washington last season I had no idea of the conflicting forces in the way of musical organizations here, which have been simply playing ping-pong with me ever since. I first enlisted the financial support of a number of the music-loving residents of the city, and with the guarantee fund which was thus established I felt encouraged to go on. Being new to the city, I was entirely unaware of any local difficulties as to organizations, and the first orchestra was chosen without reference to any faction or organization by a committee consisting of the leading musicians of the city and chosen absolutely without any word or suggestion from me, simply because I was unacquainted with their merits. I found out almost immediately, however, that notwithstanding their interest in the project many of the musicians of the city were forbidden by the laws of the organization to take any active part in the organization.

## Paderewski's Opinion.

"But we got along and gave a concert which was sufficiently good for Paderewski to go back to New York and declare enthusiastically that it was the best concert and the best orchestra for the time it had rehearsed that he had ever heard. Shortly after this concert I learned from the public press that the American Federation of Musicians had issued a boycott against me and my organization because I had employed non-union men, or rather, that I had employed enlisted men in the orchestra. This, of course, was a very difficult situation for me to combat, and had it been a purely personal one I should have felt much more free to act. But any action I might take in the matter involved not only myself, but my librettist, my managers and my publishers, so that I was obliged to be circumspect and not arouse any unnecessary antagonism. Various interviews were held with Mr. Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and with the officers of the local musicians' union, with a view to reconciling differences, but none of these seemed to bring matters to a definite head, and I became convinced after conferences with several of the more prominent guarantors that, were the concert to be abandoned this season, it would be exceedingly difficult in the future, not to say impossible, to again raise a guarantee fund to support a symphony concert in Washington.

"Therefore, when I came over to Washington from New York a week ago, it was with the earnest desire to have the matter of the organization of the orchestra arranged in some satisfactory way, not only to the organization of musicians, but the members of the Marine Band. The latter organization, headed by Professor Santelmann, had shown every interest in the work. Mr. Santelmann's attitude from the first has been one consistent with his known position as an artist and a gentleman, and when the question of orchestra or no orchestra seemed to be the outcome, it was certainly due in either case that the members of the Marine Band should not be discharged or dropped in any manner which would in the least reflect upon their high professional standing.

## Standpoint of Marine Band.

"After consultations with many people and after calling together the executive committee of the orchestra, we came to the conclusion that the only feasible way, in justice to all parties, was to disband the orchestra. The orchestra was disbanded with expressions of esteem and regret, and the new orchestra organized on lines of harmony with the American Federation of Musicians. The name, the De Koven Symphony Orchestra, was adopted against my protest, and at the first meeting of the organization I shall strongly urge that this be modified and that the organization be known as the Symphony Orchestra of Washington. In order to complete the personnel of the new organization it will be necessary to engage some eight or ten musicians from out of town, but so many letters have been received from musicians, that it will not be exactly like importing foreign material to complete our ranks."

Mr. De Koven paid compliment to Edwin H. Propoy, who, as treasurer of the first concert, rendered valuable assistance, and who has taken an active part in the efforts to provide symphony concerts for Washingtonians during the coming season.

The situation from the standpoint of the Marine Band was discussed with a Star reporter by Prof. W. H. Santelmann, the well-known leader of the band. The latter said that the Marine Band will be the last persons to stand in the way of having a permanent symphony orchestra established in Washington. "We regret very much that conditions are such that this permanent organization seemed an impossibility. If by the members of the band continued to form a part of the orchestra."

"It cannot be considered by any one, however, that this has been in any way the fault of the Marine Band. The by-laws of the civilian organization forbid that there be any play with enlisted men. These by-laws are not amendable by the local organization. The Marine Band has exactly to join this organization or to do anything in its power to promote the best interests of musical development in Washington. But in the present case, we feel that should the guarantee fund which has been raised for the symphony concert be withdrawn it will be a most difficult undertaking which again raise another fund, and we believe that the concert should be given even if the Marine Band has to sacrifice its part in the undertaking."

## Ample Musical Talent.

Mr. Santelmann commented favorably on the interest which the twenty-seven members of the band had taken in the work last winter. They were, he said, always present at rehearsals and enthusiastic in the work throughout.

Viewing the situation from an artistic and professional point, he expressed regret that at least the higher class of music which the symphony orchestra is to play could not be handled purely from this plane and not be bound by labor union rules. It is needless to say that Mr. Santelmann will be the patron of the symphony work, and this demonstrated the settlement of the misunderstanding between the local musicians and Reginald De Koven.

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The composer, said in an interview with a Star reporter:

"The graceful manner in which those members of the Marine Band who were members of the Washington Symphony Orchestra acquiesced in its dissolution came in the nature of a gratifying surprise. This circumstance, together with the agreement entered into yesterday between the Federation of Musicians and Mr. De Koven, settles once and for all the contention that the restriction of the band from doing other than government duty will prove a setback to local music. Washington was probably never before so well equipped in musicians as at present, the membership of the local union comprising at least 250. The local theater orchestras are now composed entirely of union musicians for the first time in their history, and it is worthy of note that the orchestra conductors accompanying musical attractions have paid the local organizations many compliments this season."

**Much Talked of Boycott.**

"When Mr. De Koven formed the Washington Symphony Orchestra he was misled as to the true state of affairs in local musical circles, and gave innocent and I may say involuntary offense to the American Federation of Musicians, whose fundamental principle is an antagonism to government band competition with civilian musicians throughout the country. This led to the 'much-talked-of' boycott. The local placed on Mr. De Koven's compositions was as far reaching as it might have appeared, inasmuch as there was no general boycott ordered."

"At the time of the organization of the Washington Symphony Orchestra the Federation was in its infancy, and only included about half of the theater orchestras. It would have been impossible to give the Washington Symphony Orchestra concert with enlisted men without importing a very large proportion of the orchestra. This certainly was inadvisable, and rendered the giving of the concert by the original orchestra an impossibility. I feel assured that the civilian musicians will exhaust every effort to make what has been styled the 'lesser of two evils,' that is, the De Koven Symphony Orchestra, in no way suffer in comparison with that given by the Washington Symphony Orchestra."

**Hard Lines for Paris Critics.**

Corr. London Sketch.

The Paris theatrical managers have entered in a campaign against the critics. Last season they discontinued the dress rehearsals, which was a sort of press view and a first night in all but name, and now they have decided to stop the press tickets for the first nights. "We are," said one of them to an interviewer, "tired and tired of the critics. We give them free places and

facilities, and they retaliate with adverse criticism which ruins our audiences and make each successive play a failure. Further, if a journalist writes down a play we shall proceed against him in the law courts. If the newspaper were to publish an article stating that X's cognac was undrinkable, the journalist who wrote the article and the newspaper in which it appeared would both be sued for damages. Our case, as we consider it, is precisely similar."

**A Dilemma.**

From the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

Actors probably suffer more than any other class of people from the importunities of autograph hunters. In the hotel lobbies, at the stage entrance to the theater and often in the street they are held up and made to stand and deliver; but it is not often that they are pursued into the ocean. Mr. E. H. Sothern, however, recently had that experience. He was enjoying a morning swim in the surf at Newport, when he heard some one splashing and puffing behind him and at the same time calling to him not to go so fast. Thinking the man had some good reason for wanting to stop him, he turned and said: "What is it?"

"Hold on a minute, there," said the stranger. "Aren't you Mr. E. H. Sothern?"

"Yes," replied the actor.

"Well, I want you (puff) to give me (puff) your autograph (puff). Will you?"

Thinking he had to deal with a harmless lunatic, Mr. Sothern assured him that nothing would give him greater pleasure. Would he have it in sand, seaweed or salt water?

"Never mind your joking," said the stranger. "My Katherina is on the beach and I got the album and a stylographic pen."

"And did you submit to the imposition?" Mr. Sothern was asked.

"Well," replied the gentleman, "you see I was between Katherina and the deep sea; so I took a look at Katherina and—"

"I chose the deep sea."

**O'Neill's Friends.**

From the Denver Times.

James O'Neill has rediscovered the country humorist. He found him out west. All country humorists are discovered in the west, especially if the discoverer tells of it in a brackman who let him off at a small station to wait for another train. As O'Neill reached the platform the brackman observed:

"Sort of dull place, ain't it? Still, you'll have company. The ticket agent, the operator, the interviewer, 'tick and tire' the postmaster and the rest."

The red-haired man grinned. "I'm um; come in and join us," he answered.

ance company is all inside."

O'Neill entered the station and looked around. In the dim light he could distinguish only a red-haired man at a telegraph instrument.

"Where are the others?" the actor asked.

"Other what?" asked the man.

"Why the ticket agent, the flagman, the postmaster and the rest."

The red-haired man grinned. "I'm um; come in and join us," he answered.

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"Eh! Mining?"

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Arlington, Myer, Falls Church, FROM AQUEDUCT BRIDGE HALF HOURLY. 3:20-4-8

**FOR MOUNT VERNON,**

HOME AND FOUNTAIN OF WASHINGTON.

IRON STEAMER CHARLES MACATELLE Leaves 7th st. 10:10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Arrives Washington 2:15 and 5:15 p.m. Fare, round trip, 25c. Admission to grounds and museum, 10c. oct-17-16

**Academy**

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

BEST SEATS, 25c.

Tonight—Last Time of : : : TWO LITTLE WAIFS.

—ALL NEXT WEEK—

JULES MURRY'S Big Scenic Production

Same Magnificent Production that Played Six Solid Months at the 14th Street Theater, New York.

Night Prices 25 or 50 Cents. RESERVED.

Week of Oct. 27th - - - IN OLD KENTUCKY.

**LOST RIVER**

Same Magnificent Production that Played Six Solid Months at the 14th Street Theater, New York.

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